UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/573
17 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 32

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/15 of 25 November 1994, took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/465) and requested the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to continue cooperation in their common search for solutions to global problems relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and economic and technical development. It further encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with OIC. The General Assembly also welcomed the intention of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen cooperation between them in the political field and to undertake consultations with a view to defining the mechanisms of such cooperation.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly noted that the next focal point meeting of the lead agencies of the United Nations and OIC would be held in 1995. It requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of OIC, to continue encouraging the convening of sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, as recommended by the previous meetings of the two organizations, including the follow-up to the sectoral meetings. It further requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

3. On 3 October 1994, the Secretary-General held a meeting at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General of OIC, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Al-Ghabid, to review progress in cooperation between the two organizations and to discuss issues of mutual interest. At the last general meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations and OIC and its specialized institutions in May 1994, the two organizations recognized the need to strengthen cooperation in the political field and agreed to undertake consultations with one another to define the mechanisms for such cooperation. To this end, on 3 October 1994, a high-level OIC secretariat delegation met with the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

4. On 3 October 1994, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of OIC held their annual coordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in particular those items of concern and interest to OIC. In response to an invitation from OIC, the Director of the West Asia Division of the Department of Political Affairs attended the meeting.

5. The coordination meeting reviewed the current international situation, with particular attention to the Middle East and the question of Palestine; Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Jammu and Kashmir dispute; Afghanistan; Somalia; the

conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan; the consequences of Iraq's incursion and occupation of Kuwait; the situation pertaining to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Security Council resolution 731 (1992); Cyprus; and Tajikistan.

6. At the invitation of OIC and the Government of Morocco, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Seventh Islamic Summit held at Casablanca from 10 to 14 December 1994. During the Summit, the Assistant Secretary-General held a meeting with the OIC Secretary-General to discuss issues of mutual interest and ways of further strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.

7. During the period under review, representatives of OIC participated in the meetings of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

8. Regular consultations were held and information exchanged between the United Nations secretariat and the general secretariat of OIC, as well as the Office of the Permanent Observer of OIC to the United Nations. OIC was also accorded observer status in the United Nations-sponsored inter-Tajik talks.

III. COORDINATION MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE LEAD AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND ITS SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

9. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/15, a meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions was held in Geneva from 19 to 21 June 1995. In accordance with the agreement between the coordinating secretariats, the meeting addressed the following main agenda items:

(a) Review and appraisal of progress achieved and proposals for strengthening cooperation in the nine priority areas:

(i) Development of science and technology;

(ii) Trade and development;

(iii) Technical cooperation;

(iv) Assistance to refugees;

(v) Food security and agriculture;

(vi) Education and eradication of illiteracy;

(vii) Investment mechanisms and joint ventures;

(viii) Human resources development;

(ix) Environment;

(b) Other matters:

(i) Creation of a new focal point;

(ii) Human resources development;

(iii) Financing of joint projects.

10. Representatives of the following departments of the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system participated in the meeting: Department of Political Affairs; Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (represented by UNCTAD); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

11. Representatives of the following departments, organizations and institutions of OIC participated in the meeting: Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD); Islamic Centre for Development and Trade (ICDT); Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC); Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT); Department of Science and Technology of the OIC secretariat; Economic Affairs Department of the OIC secretariat; Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF); Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) (observer); Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), (observer).

12. Based on the discussions in the meetings, which centred around the working papers prepared by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations and OIC and its institutions, the meeting agreed to continue and strengthen cooperation in the nine priority areas, as defined in specific agreements reached between the agencies of the two organizations at the meeting. (These agreements are contained in the final report of the meeting which was transmitted by the United Nations Secretariat to all the agencies of the United Nations and to the OIC secretariat on 29 June 1995.)

13. With a view to further strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the meeting considered the proposal by OIC to create a new priority area entitled "Promotion of development through intercultural dialogue" and agreed to recommend this proposal to the next general meeting of the two organizations. The meeting also noted the decision by OIC to nominate the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to be the focal point of OIC for the proposed new priority area.

14. The meeting noted that the implementation of the decision taken by the last general meeting to strengthen cooperation in the political field was under way and that contacts had already been initiated by the departments concerned in the

two organizations to define the mechanisms of cooperation in this important field.

15. The meeting recommended that in order to further strengthen cooperation between the two Organizations:

(a) Focal points should consider exchanging their work programmes and might associate each other in some of their scheduled activities of mutual interest;

(b) Focal points should agree on medium-term (three to five years) cooperation programmes, to the extent possible;

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations system and OIC and its subsidiaries should be conceived in the context of realizing synergy and added value of joint efforts in member States. Joint programming procedures and timeliness should be improved, with due consideration for the involvement of other actors, be they bilateral or multilateral, governmental or non-governmental organizations. There should be consultations of focal points from both organizations on programme elements which have been approved as priorities by the respective governing bodies and have resources earmarked for them in 1996-1997. For the 1998-1999 biennium and beyond consultations should be undertaken at the time of programme budget preparations;

(d) Focal points should formalize their relations through the signing of memoranda of understanding;

(e) Focal points should incorporate in their respective work programmes the activities, projects and programmes on which agreement has been reached for joint implementation;

(f) Specific contact points should be designated in each of the participating United Nations and OIC institutions. These contact points should be encouraged to realize at least one joint activity between their respective institutions during the year between the cooperation meetings;

(g) A small high-level committee consisting of two senior officials from both the United Nations and OIC should be established to oversee the work of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC institutions and to facilitate their work by providing necessary support as well as to remove any hurdles in the way of the realization of their joint activities.

16. The meeting recalled the decision taken by the last general meeting that a review, in the form of monitoring and evaluation, should be undertaken of the ways and means to enhance the actual mechanisms of cooperation between the United Nations system and OIC. To this end, the participating United Nations and OIC institutions were invited to submit to their respective coordinators their suggestions and observations on the matter, for the purpose of preparing a consolidated paper to be examined at the next general meeting.

17. The meeting expressed the hope that the next general meeting would be held in 1996 in order to take decisions on the recommendations that need urgent

attention, particularly the proposals for enhancing cooperation between the United Nations system and OIC and its subsidiary institutions.

18. The meeting recommended that joint activities and projects should be partially financed, as far as possible, by the concerned focal points and/or agencies involved. Additional sources of financing might also be jointly identified. In that regard, the meeting further recommended that a set of basic guidelines for funding jointly agreed projects and programmes should be developed at the next general meeting to operationalize project funding mechanisms.

19. Noting that the question of financing of technical cooperation activities supported by OIC and its subsidiary bodies was of crucial importance, particularly in view of diminishing international resources for official development assistance, the meeting underscored the relevance of the participation in periodic consultations between the United Nations and OIC of the Islamic Development Bank, and other funding institutions in the Islamic world. It was therefore recommended that a formal invitation be regularly extended to such institutions to attend future joint meetings of the two organizations.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND ITS SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

20. It may be recalled that the United Nations and OIC established areas of priority for cooperation and designated organizations and agencies on both sides to act as focal points for follow-up action which would be required for the implementation of recommendations adopted by joint meetings of the two organizations. The organizations and agencies of the United Nations system serving as focal points for priority areas of action are as follows:

Organization/agency	Area
Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	Development of science and technology
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Development and trade
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Technical cooperation among Islamic countries
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Assistance to refugees

Organization/agency	Area
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Food security and agriculture
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Education and eradication of illiteracy
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Investment mechanisms and joint ventures
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Human resources development
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Environment

21. Outlined below is a summary of the reports received from the United Nations organizations and agencies serving as focal points for the priority areas during the period under review.

A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

22. The UNCTAD secretariat continued its cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on trade, finance and transit transport issues. IDB requested the UNCTAD secretariat's assistance in the design and implementation of privatization and enterprise development activities principally for the Central Asian republics.

23. Within the framework of its technical assistance activities, the UNCTAD secretariat organized a symposium on the evaluation of the implications of the Uruguay Round for Arab countries which was held in Casablanca from 21 to 23 November 1994 and which was attended by the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade. IDB is presently considering providing financial support for two UNCTAD technical assistance projects in East-Central and South-Central Africa.

B. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

24. Within the framework of their cooperation agreement, UNHCR and OIC have continued to expand their cooperation in priority areas relating to refugees and global humanitarian problems. Regular meetings have taken place between representatives of the two organizations both in Geneva and in Jeddah.

25. UNHCR's participation at the Seventh Islamic Summit constituted a step forward in the two organizations' common search for humanitarian solutions and adequate responses to the plight of various groups of refugees in Islamic countries.

26. As regards UNHCR's cooperation with the specialized institutions of OIC, a number of concrete steps have been taken to implement the terms of the special agreement signed in May 1991 between UNHCR and the Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO). This agreement provides for general and permanent cooperation, including exchange of expertise, regular meetings of joint commissions and mutual benefits in staff services.

27. Similar progress has also been achieved in UNHCR's cooperation with IDB through the signature in January 1994 of a cooperation agreement. The main objective of this agreement is to enhance the cooperation between the two organizations in the field of humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees. Consultations are conducted by the two parties to identify projects and plans designed to assist refugees and returnees, focusing on essential needs such as settlement, training, education, health and development.

28. Finally, in the field of promotion and dissemination of refugee law, UNHCR and OIC are exploring further opportunities to organize jointly seminars and conferences on asylum and refugee law in different Islamic countries.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

29. A FAO delegation visited OIC headquarters in March 1994, at which time OIC reaffirmed its interest in collaborating closely with FAO and welcomed FAO's new Special Programme on Food Production in support of food security in low-income food deficit countries (LIFDCs). OIC emphasized the need to assist Islamic countries in Asia and the new States which had joined the organization (Albania and Kyrgyzstan). The FAO delegation was informed that OIC desired cooperation in sectors such as crop forecasting systems, the Global Information System, soil surveys and mapping.

30. The Secretary-General of OIC visited FAO headquarters in June 1994 and met with the Director-General to discuss ways in which future cooperation between the two organizations could be intensified. The Director-General attended the Seventh Islamic Summit. On that occasion, a draft resolution on the World Food Summit, to be held in Rome in November 1996, was presented and endorsed by the heads of State of OIC member countries. FAO also attended the Conference of Foreign Ministers of OIC member countries which preceded the Summit.

31. The fourth OIC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Development was held in Tehran in January 1995. At the meeting, the Ministers reiterated their countries' support for the convening of the World Food Summit and agreed to take more concrete steps towards enhancing cooperation between OIC, its specialized institutions and FAO.

32. FAO was also represented at OIC meetings which took place in Turkey, namely the meeting of National Focal Points for Technical Cooperation among Islamic

Countries (13-16 May 1994) and the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Matters, attended by the OIC Ministers of Economic Affairs (22-24 October 1994).

33. The Director-General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) visited FAO headquarters in September 1994.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

34. UNESCO continues to cooperate with OIC mainly through the latter's specialized agencies - the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) - through a series of joint activities. During the present biennium (1994-1995) UNESCO increased its cooperation with ISESCO in the fields of education, culture, science and social science.

35. In the field of education, ISESCO participated in the following major meetings of UNESCO:

(a) Second session of the Advisory Committee of the Regional Programme for the Universalization and Renewal of Primary Education and the Eradication of Adult Illiteracy in the Arab States (ARABUPEAL II) (Cairo, 5-8 June 1994);

(b) Fifth Conference of Ministers of Education and those Responsible for Economic Planning in the Arab States (Cairo, 11-14 June 1994);

(c) Regional Preparatory Meeting for the forty-fourth session of the International Conference on Education on the theme "Appraisal and perspective of education for international understanding in the Arab region" (Tunisia, 25-28 April 1994);

(d) Regional meeting on following up the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Education of Arab Member States (MINEDARAB) (Amman, 12-14 March 1995);

(e) Regional Expert Meeting for Developing Exemplary Curricula for the Secondary Level in Human Rights and Democracy (Rabat, 25-28 April 1995).

36. During 1995, UNESCO and ISESCO are undertaking joint activities in basic education for children of disadvantaged groups with emphasis on girls and women. ISESCO is expected to participate in UNESCO meetings scheduled for the last part of 1995.

37. An agreement was signed on 1 June 1995 at UNESCO headquarters between UNESCO and ISESCO with a view to implementing joint activities in the OIC member countries in the field of education in 1995 and 1996-1997 through the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS).

38. In the field of culture, joint activities are being undertaken in the areas of museum preservation of cultural heritage and Arabic manuscripts, including

copyright, and the preparation of the work on various aspects of Islamic culture. A joint UNESCO-ISESCO meeting was organized on 5 June 1995 in Rabat on the question of the preservation of the cultural heritage of Jerusalem.

39. In the field of science, several areas of cooperation with ISESCO, such as biotechnology and distance education, have been identified. The least developed member States of ISESCO participated in meetings and training courses organized by UNESCO. During the UNESCO-ISESCO joint committee to be held in November 1995, modalities of cooperation with ISESCO will be discussed for the implementation of the following ISESCO proposals: subregional seminar on the conservation of biological biodiversity and a training course in solar electricity for rural and remote areas.

40. In the field of social science, UNESCO is planning to hold a colloquium at the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca bringing together representatives of youth NGOs, teachers and religious officials from the Mediterranean countries with a view to launching an appeal for reconciliation among peoples, cultures, languages and religions.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

41. The United Nations Environment Programme, through its Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), has continued its cooperation with the OIC secretariat and some of its specialized institutions.

42. In 1993 the OIC Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology (IFSTAD) and UNEP/ROWA collaborated in the preparation of a report on the state of the environment in OIC member countries, which was submitted to the twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts of the OIC secretariat and IFSTAD, which provided the framework for cooperation among Islamic countries in the field of environment and sustainable development.

43. As a follow-up to this, UNEP, through ROWA, has commissioned a consultant to assist IFSTAD to prepare a programme of action, following the recommendations of the Second United Nations-Organization of the Islamic Conference sectoral meeting on science and technology with special emphasis on environment. The preparation of this programme of action is presently under way.

44. In capacity-building, UNEP and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) of OIC convened a workshop on natural resource accounting in Ankara from 12 to 14 June 1995. This is envisaged to be a first step in a long-term collaboration between UNEP and SESRTCIC in Ankara in the area of environmental economics and natural resource accounting, which is a priority activity for both institutions. Following the workshop, future activities will be discussed by UNEP representatives and the management of the Centre.

45. Also in the capacity-building area, UNEP/ROWA assisted the Islamic Development Bank in conducting an environmental impact assessment workshop for West Asia, in Amman in 1994. The seminar was conducted in Arabic and a similar

workshop is scheduled jointly with the UNEP Environment and Economics Unit for the French-speaking Islamic countries in Africa in 1995. Future joint activities in this respect will be the subject of consultations for 1995 and the 1996-1997 biennium.

V. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. United Nations Secretariat

Department for Development Support and Management Services

46. In November 1994, the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services met with the Director-General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) and the head of its Technical Cooperation Department. The discussions focused on promoting further technical cooperation between the Department and OIC. The Department's Division of Public Administration and Development Management is also making initial contacts with IDB. Negotiations are currently taking place on a project to strengthen the administrative infrastructure of the city of Sarajevo. There is potential IDB support for this project, formulated by the Department's technical advisers.

Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

47. The Department organizes meetings in which representatives of OIC participate. For example, the workshop on environmental and natural resources accounting (June 1995) organized by the Statistical Division of the Department and UNEP was hosted by SESRTCIC in Ankara.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

48. OIC held an international symposium on child rights and child care in Islam from 28 to 30 June 1994 at OIC headquarters in Jeddah. The conference was in response to the decision taken at the Sixth Islamic Summit, held in Dakar in December 1991, in its resolution No. 2/6-C, which the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers reaffirmed in Karachi, Pakistan, in April 1993.

49. The symposium had the following main objectives: (a) to promote the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by all OIC member countries. Before the symposium, 10 OIC member countries had not ratified the Convention; following the conference, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan proceeded to ratify it; (b) to prepare a draft declaration on child rights and child care in Islam, for endorsement by the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and ultimately by the next Islamic Summit; (c) to call for high-level political commitment to the promise made to children; (d) to study the current implementation status of national work plans and national programmes of action for children, emanating from the Declaration for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990.

50. The Seventh Islamic Summit made important commitments to children. It endorsed the Jeddah Declaration on the Rights and Care of the Child in Islam, and approved a resolution that reflects the priorities set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children. UNICEF warmly welcomed these commitments by the member States of OIC as they will ensure a better future for all the children of the Islamic Ummah (nation). The Declaration on the Rights and Care of the Child in Islam marked the first occasion that an OIC Summit had approved a declaration on children.

51. The meeting also provided an occasion for representatives of UNICEF to meet with most heads of delegation, as well as with the OIC Secretary-General. The opportunity was taken to press heads of State and official delegations to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child or, for those States that had already done so, to implement the Convention.

52. The meeting, with its wide range of participants from countries at different levels of socio-economic development, provided an opportunity to congratulate countries such as Brunei Darussalam for having attained an under-five mortality rate of 10 per 1,000, the lowest among the OIC countries. It also provided an opportunity for UNICEF to compliment the leaders of countries such as Malaysia and Egypt for their outstanding achievements on behalf of children, compared with their overall economic position as suggested by their per capita GNP. Furthermore, it was possible to extend encouragement to some countries in West Africa and the Sahel that are confronting major difficulties but nevertheless are making laudable efforts in specific fields, such as sustainability of health activities through community financing, better known as the Bamako Initiative, and immunization.

53. UNICEF has continued to work closely with the OIC secretariat to promote child survival and development in the Islamic world, and special efforts will continue to be made to encourage member States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

C. United Nations Population Fund

54. UNFPA is committed under its 1982 memorandum on cooperation and liaison with OIC to promote awareness of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems, and to extend systematic and sustainable assistance to OIC member States, at their request, in dealing with their population problems. Such assistance is mainly provided for activities relating directly to population policy formulation and implementation including the taking of population censuses, the improvement of registration of vital events, population surveys, research (particularly on matters relevant to decision-making and action programmes within the UNFPA mandate), training of personnel, strengthening population policy units in Governments, basic education and population education to meet the needs of girls and women, as well as reproductive health and child-spacing services, and meetings and seminars on the interrelationships of population and socio-economic development.

55. UNFPA is continuing to play a catalytic role in assisting the member States of OIC to develop common projects using the technical cooperation among

developing countries (TCDC) model of cooperation and strengthening its collaboration with regional institutions and the specialized institutions of OIC in areas of mutual interest.

D. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

56. Within the framework of continuing cooperation between ESCWA and OIC, a number of joint activities were implemented in the ESCWA region with the support of OIC's specialized institutions.

57. In the field of industrial development, ESCWA participated in the United Nations/Organization of the Islamic Conference general meeting held in Geneva from 9 to 11 May 1994. Follow-up contacts are being carried out by the ESCWA secretariat on this issue.

58. A memorandum of understanding pertaining to water resources development and management matters between ESCWA and the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDM) of the OIC Committee for Science and Technology was signed on 7 December 1994. Within the framework of this cooperative arrangement, a training workshop was organized by INWRDM at the Al-Bayt University (Jordan) from 18 to 19 March 1995, in which ESCWA participated.

59. A high-level workshop on the implications of new and advanced materials technologies was held at the Arab School for Science and Technology in Damascus in September 1992, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and other national and international institutions concerned with science and technology.

60. A project document on assessment of water resources in the ESCWA region using remote sensing techniques was prepared in 1994 by the ESCWA secretariat. The project is financed by ESCWA and IDB, as well as other United Nations agencies. It is now under implementation by the ESCWA secretariat in its capacity as co-financing and executing agency.

61. A high-level workshop on the integration of science and technology in the development planning process was held in Amman in September 1993 in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology of Jordan and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD).

E. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

62. Since 1989, several divisions of ECA have either been exploring ways of cooperating or have been actively collaborating with OIC specialized institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) of IDB, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD). During the period 1994-1995, the following activities were carried out or are envisaged:

(a) Science and technology. ECA is seeking further cooperation with OIC through the implementation of concrete projects such as those identified by the North African Working Group of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development;

(b) Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS). PADIS has fruitful relations with ISESCO, IDB and IRTI. PADIS representatives usually attend meetings of IDB and possibilities of cooperation with ISESCO and IRTI in exchanging information and data related to development are now being studied;

(c) Industry and human settlements. Two seminars on the improvement of leather products were organized jointly by ECA and IDB. For French-speaking countries, a seminar took place in March 1995 in Tangier (Morocco) and a seminar for English-speaking countries was held in Khartoum (Sudan) in July 1995. Two other seminars are to be held, on irrigation equipment and low-cost housing.

F. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

63. UNRWA has maintained a cooperative working relationship with OIC since 1987. UNRWA officials at various levels meet periodically in Jeddah with the OIC Assistant-Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds and with other OIC secretariat staff. On 27 and 28 June 1995, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA attended the First Meeting of the Group of Eminent Persons convened by OIC in Jeddah. UNRWA keeps OIC regularly informed of its activities and programmes through public information and other material sent to the secretariat. The Agency also maintains contact with IDB. The Agency appreciates the generous contributions made by OIC member States to UNRWA's regular budget and to special assistance programmes as well as OIC's ongoing support for the Agency's efforts to provide basic services and humanitarian aid to Palestine refugees.

G. International Fund for Agricultural Development

64. IFAD and OIC have continued to invite each other to attend high-level meetings of their respective organizations as observers. During the period under review, IFAD participated in the fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Tehran in January 1995. The final document of this conference noted with appreciation the efforts being made by IFAD in the area of agricultural development and poverty alleviation in the developing countries, especially in OIC member countries. The conference urged OIC member States which have not yet announced their pledges to the Fourth Replenishment of IFAD Resources to do so at their earliest convenience. Of the resolutions adopted by the conference, at least three of them specifically asked IFAD and other United Nations programmes and agencies to cooperate with the OIC secretariat in the implementation of OIC resolutions related to food security and agricultural development.

65. IFAD has maintained periodic contacts with SESRTCIC. During this period a delegation from SESRTCIC headed by its Director-General visited Rome in September 1994 and held fruitful discussions with the IFAD management. An IFAD

mission visited Ankara in March 1995 and discussed the enhancement of cooperation with the management. The two institutions decided to jointly organize a regional workshop for the promotion of technical cooperation in agricultural and rural development of the OIC member countries in Africa. The main objectives of the workshop, which will be held before the end of 1995, would be to identify and understand the specific needs and capacities of technical cooperation in agricultural and rural development of the African OIC member countries and to identify focal points in this field and strengthen their capacities for undertaking the work of technical cooperation. Eighteen countries will be participating.

66. IFAD has continued to maintain close cooperation with IDB. They hold annual consultations to review ongoing joint efforts and to plan future activities. During the nineteenth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB held in Jeddah in November 1994, IFAD's delegation also discussed with IDB management the opportunities for co-financing in the New Independent States. They further agreed to cooperate in the field of research on saline water for agricultural purposes.

67. IFAD and IDB also collaborate in financing projects in the OIC member countries. As of December 1994, 13 IFAD projects had been co-financed by IDB. Of these projects, totalling US$ 485 million, IFAD loans amount to more than US$ 247.9 million and those of IDB amount to more than US$ 81.9 million.

H. World Intellectual Property Organization

68. Among the nine priority areas that have been identified at general meetings of the United Nations and OIC, WIPO is particularly concerned with development of science and technology and human resources development.

69. In this context, WIPO undertook a series of consultations with OIC and its affiliates, namely the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), designed to create a mechanism for regular and effective cooperation.

70. Following the signing in 1992 of an agreement which provided the framework and procedures for cooperation between OIC and WIPO, consultations continued with a view to undertaking several joint activities. In January 1994, representatives from IDB and IFSTAD met in Geneva with WIPO officials and discussed the strengthening of their cooperation. As a first step, they agreed to co-organize a workshop on industrial property licensing and technology transfer arrangements. In the field of copyright, the Director-General of ISESCO had consultations with WIPO officials during meetings of the WIPO Governing Bodies in November 1993 and agreed to organize a number of activities in 1994, including, inter alia, a seminar on copyright for French-speaking countries, in Morocco, in October 1994.

71. WIPO also organized, jointly with ISESCO, a meeting in Rabat from 5 to 7 October 1994 to generate awareness of the importance of the protection of

copyright and associated rights in the member States of ISESCO. The meeting was attended by member States of the two organizations.

72. A WIPO official participated in and lectured at the Technical Cooperation Meeting of Patent Authorities in the Arab Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which took place in Cairo in February 1995. This meeting was organized by IFSTAD and IDB in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) of Egypt.

73. In order to further translate their undertaking into concrete policies for the promotion of awareness and improvement of the protection and effective use of intellectual property by member countries of OIC, WIPO and OIC plan to focus their policies on three priority sectors, namely: development of human resources, use of patent information and documentation, and the reinforcement of the intellectual property infrastructure.

I. Other United Nations specialized agencies and international organizations

74. The World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Trade Organization conveyed information to the Secretariat on their programmes and activities in OIC member States over the course of the year.